

King County Healthcare Coalition

Monthly Update

August 31, 2006
Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update

The Healthcare Coalition planning effort is focused on (1) building the infrastructure to support greater coordination across the community's diverse health system, (2) developing coordinated surge capacity strategies and plans, and (3) supporting pandemic preparedness planning throughout the healthcare community.

The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 35 health care organizations and agencies. The next meeting of executives from Coalition member organizations will be in the Fall of 2006. Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing an on-going budget, staffing plan, and work groups. There is now a web page for the Coalition that can be accessed through the Public Health website (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm>). (Coalition staff contacts – Richard Marks 206-322-0971 and Lydia Ortega 206-296-5079)

WORKGROUP/ COMMITTEE INFORMATION & UPDATES

Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

(Staff contacts – Dr. Gary Goldbaum, PHSKC at 206-296-4991 & Aimée Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145)

The ACPWG is developing surge capacity plans for ambulatory care and triage services. The group is developing strategies that will expand outpatient care and telephone triage and reduce demand on hospital emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

- The Work Group has now completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza. It can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/ambulatory/index.htm>
- The Ambulatory Care Workgroup will reconvene September 18th from 8:00 – 10:00 am at the King County Medical Society

Critical Care Work Group

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin at 206-296-4814, Mark Tonelli, MD at tonelli@u.washington.edu)

This work group is comprised of Critical Care Directors from Coalition hospitals. Public Health will be contracting with Dr. Mark Tonelli, from the University of Washington to develop altered standards of care and clinical and staffing guidelines for mass critical care.

- Dr. Tonelli will initiate his work in June 2006 and will present his preliminary recommendations to the Work Group in the fall.

Legal Work Group

(Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PHSKC at 206-206-8969)

This group is comprised of attorneys representing hospitals and government entities in King County. The Legal Work Group has started review of King County protocol for delivery of health officer isolation orders to hospitalized persons

- The group is currently outlining the King County procedures for delivery of Health Officer Isolation Orders to Hospitalized Persons.

- They are also working on answering several legal questions raised by the Ambulatory Care Workgroup.

Medical Directors Committee

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814)

The Medical Directors will provide expertise and leadership for issues related to clinical care during any health emergency where large-scale emergency response and/or changes in routine healthcare delivery are necessary. The Medical Directors will review and develop clinical policies, protocols, practice standards, and plans that are relevant to emergency response.

- The Medical Directors met on July 20th. They discussed potential, medical resource distribution approaches, surge models and Pandemic Flu employee training.
- Below is a link to the PowerPoint Presentation on employee training presented at the meeting. If you have comments on the training please provide them to Kay Koelemay, kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov.

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/training/pandemic-flu.htm>

Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

(Staff contact – Cynthia Dold, PHSKC at 206-205-0456)

This committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of hospital and healthcare emergency preparedness issues which includes surge capacity, evacuation planning, resource management, and training & exercises. The committee is currently working on the following issues:

- Finalizing work on a comprehensive assessment of current, disaster and catastrophic hospital capacity.
- Determining HRSA 2006 funding priorities. Their list is due to DOH by the end of July along with their 2005 HRSA Year End Report.
- Revising their Regional Hospital Response Plan.
- Developing the Regional Medical Resource Center

PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

Alternate Facilities Project

(Staff contact – Tony Cebollero, PHSKC at 206-205-8621)
Anthony Cebollero has been hired as the Alternate Facilities Project Manager. He will work with partners to establish emergency facilities that can provide triage, ambulatory care, observation, and palliative care. These facilities will be designed to supplement the regular health care system in the event of emergencies that generate demand that exceeds existing surge capacity, i.e. “super surge.”

- Tony recently met with several representatives for South County to identify potential facilities for mass vaccination planning.
- His next scheduled meeting with an Emergency Management Team will take place in Renton, WA on September 8th, 2006.

Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

(Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213)
The RMRC is the linchpin for coordinated operational preparedness and response. The Center will monitor and distribute human and medical resources among participating Healthcare Coalition organizations and facilities based on the objectives of the emergency response.

- The RMRC is currently creating Resource Surveys for ventilators, masks, and vendors.
- Along with developing a list of resources that the Hospital Community would like to track, they are also exploring

technology comparisons for web-based resource tracking tools.

- The RMRC has also begun to create an Operational Plan that will be vital in assuring the continuity of agency operations.

King County Call Center Project

(Project Manager, Joe Cropley at 206-517-2383)
This project will document the existing call center capacity of participating health-related and medical organizations and will develop strategies to increase capacity. The Project will address medical phone advice and triage, as well as other public information needs. The project will involve the participation of 911 and 211 systems, Group Health and Evergreen Hospital, the Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Management, Sound Telecom, and Public Health. Joe Cropley, from the Washington Poison Center, is the Project Manager for the Call Center Project.

- Joe is continuing to meet with Dispatch Centers and other Consulting Nurse Services. So far, two physicians and a nurse manager have signed on to assist in developing a Regional Call Center Work Team.
- Urban Area Security Initiative Funds (UASI) have been approved for Pierce and Snohomish Counties in the coordination project.

OTHER UPDATES

- Free personal and family pandemic flu preparedness brochures: *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide* is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm (click on General Store Website link to order brochures).
- Sponsored by Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC), the Pandemic Flu exercises will test different components of response to a Pandemic Influenza event. For more information about the exercises please contact Whitney Taylor, the Training and Exercise Program Manager with PHSKC at Whitney.Taylor@METROK.COV or call (206) 296-0203.

Pandemic Flu Exercises Schedule:

Oct. 6, 2006 - Communicable Disease and Surveillance
Oct. 13, 2006 - Public Information Call Center (Functional Exercise)
Oct. 27, 2006 - Leadership/Decision Making
Nov. 3, 2006 - Health System Surge Capacity and Resource Management

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Infectious Disease Specialists Work Group
September 7th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm @ Harborview Medical Center, Pat Steel Building
- Ambulatory Care Implementation Group Meeting
September 18th from 8:00 – 10:00 am @ King County Medical Society
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee
September 28th from 7:30 – 10:00 am @ KCECC
- Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Meeting
October 23rd from 3:00 – 5:00 pm @ Harborview Medical Center Board Room, Pat Steele Building
- King County Emergency Healthcare Coalition
November 14th from 8:00 – 9:50 am @ Harborview Medical Center Board Room

For more information about the Healthcare Coalition or this update, contact:

Lydia Ortega, Administrative Support 206-296-5079 Lydia.Ortega@metrokc.gov